

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

L-03 CPR-01 SCA-01 /021 W  
----- 073394

R 311011Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4947

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUDAPEST 4155

FOR EUR/EE AND VO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, OTRA, HU

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC/OFFICIAL VISA FACILITATION

REF: BUDAPEST 1505, STATE 123931, APPA 22 CFR 41.20 (AS REVISED  
10/30/75)

1. SUMMARY. US/HUNGARIAN NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT MUTUAL REDUCTION OF TIME REQUIRED TO ISSUE VISAS TO EACH OTHER'S DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN DORMANT SINCE EARLY 1975. BASED ON AMJOR CHANGES IN CERTAIN A-1, A-2, G-1 AND G-2 VISA PROCEDURES (PUBLICIZED BY 10/30/75 APPA REVISION), EMBASSY NOW PROPOSES TO APPROACH HUNGARIANS WITH A "PACKAGE" WHICH, IF ACCEPTED, WOULD PERMIT MUTUAL ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO A BROAD RANGE OF ONE ANOTHER'S OFFICIALS WITHIN A NORM OF SEVEN DAYS DOWN TO A MINIMUM OF IMMEDIATELY IN SPECIFIED CASES. END SUMMARY.

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE (REFTELS), HUNGARIANS NOW ADHERE TO A NORM OFFOURTEEN DAYS' PROCESSING TIME BEFORE ISSUING VISAS TO U.S. "OFFICIALS", WHOM THE HUNGARIANS DEFINE AS HOLDERS OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS. HUNGARIANS BASE THIS NORM ON STRICT AND LITERAL RECIPROCITY WITH USG. IN FACT, HOWEVER, BOTH WE AND THEY FREQUENTLY ISSUE VISAS IN CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN 14 DAYS: WE, SINCE REPLIES TO VISAS BEAR AND LIKE MESSAGES COME USUALLY IN THREE TO SIX DAYS; AND THEY, CONFIDENTIAL

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UPON THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR VISA FACILITATION IN

INDIVIDUAL CASES. HOWEVER, IN LATTER CIRCUMSTANCE, GOH MORE OFTEN THAN NOT ISSUES VISAS IN CLIFFHANGER FASHION AT THE "LAST MINUTE," PERHAPS ONE DAY BEFORE THE TRAVELER'S ETD OR IN EUROPEAN CITY ON HIS ITINERARY AFTER HE HAS LEFT U.S. HUNGARIANS INJECT THIS ELEMENT OF SUSPENSE INTO VISA-ISSUING PROCESS 1) BECAUSE AT LOWER LEVELS THEY ARE ADEPT BUREAUCRATIC BUNGLERS AND 2) BECAUSE THEY WANT USG TO APPRECIATE AND AGREE TO MUTUAL SPEEDING-UP OF ENTIRE PROCESS. MIDDLE-LEVEL CONSULAR DIVISION OFFICIALS IN FONOFF HAVE REPEATEDLY AND EMPHATICALLY TOLD US IN RECENT MONTHS THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO MOVE TOWARD FASTER ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIALS AND MATCH PACE THAT U.S. SETS FOR ISSUANCE TO HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS. ON ONE OCCASION CONSULAR DIVISION OFFICIALS MENTIONED A MUTUAL 24-HOUR PROCESSING TIME AS EVENTUAL GOAL THAT THEY CONSIDER AN ATTAINABLE NORM.

3. APPA 22 CFR 41.20 NOTE 2.1 (AS REVISED OCTOBER 30,1975) NOW PROVIDES FOR VISA ISSUANCE WITHOUT AN ADVISORY OPINION TO A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNIST OFFICIALS WITH THE PROVISIO THAT, WHEN A VISA IS ISSUED WITHOUT AN ADVISORY OPINION, VISAS HORSE "SHOULD" BE SENT. EMBASSY MAY ALSO NOW, AS BEFORE, ISSUE C-3 VISAS WITHOUT AN ADVISORY OPINION BUT WITH VISAS HORSE. IN EFFECT THIS MEANS EMBASSY BUDAPEST COULD REPEAT COULD ISSUE VISAS UP TO IMMEDIATELY IN MOST CASES INVOLVING HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS GOING TO HUNGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, HUNGARIAN CONGEN NEW YORK, AND HUNGARIAN MISSION TO UNITED NATIONS. IF EMBASSY BUDAPEST ABLE TO PERSUADE GOH ON BASIS RECIPROCITY TO FACILITATE ISSUANCE OF VISAS ON SIMILAR BASIS TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS COMING PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY TO EMBASSY BUDAPEST, USG TRAVELERS THEMSELVES WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY IN TERMS OF EFFICIENCY AND CONVENIENCE.

4. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE PROPOSES TO APPROACH CONSULAR DIVISION OF FONOFF WITH THE FOLLOWING VISAAPROCESSING PACKAGE. PACKAGE HAS BEEN FRAMED WITH THREE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND:  
(1) UTILIZE CURRENT APPA PROVISIONS TO BEST ADVANTAGE;  
(2) AVOID FURTHER FRUTILESS DEBATE OVER MUTUALLY AGREED DEFINITION OF "OFFICIALS" BY FRAMING VISA FACILITATION IN TERMS OF PURPOSE OF TRAVEL RATHER THAN STRICTLY AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SOLELY ON TYPE OF PASSPORT HELD; AND (3) PROVIDE GOH WITH NO PRETEXT TO REINSTITUTE THE OLD "ANNOUNCEMENT-IN-AND-OUT" RPROCEDURE, SINCE USG UNDER PROPOSAL AS NOW DRAFTED WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ROUTINELY REQUIRE HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE VISAS HORSE DETAILED ITINERARIES.

5. PROPOSAL.

(A) HOLDERS OF HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL

PASSPORTS BEING ASSIGNED PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY TO THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY AT WASHINGTON AND THE HUNGARIAN CONSULATE GENERAL AT NEW YORK, AND MEMBERS OF HUNGARIAN PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY DELEGATIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE ABOVE CAN EXPECT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL NORMALLY COMPLETE PROCESSING OF VISA APPLICATIONS IN SEVEN DAYS OR LESS FROM THE DATE OF SUBMISSION.

(B) IN URGENT CASES IN THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, PLUS IN CASES OF HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WISH ONLY TO TRANSIT THE UNITED STATES, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE VISA APPLICATIONS IN SEVEN DAYS OR LESS, AND IF NEEDS REQUIRE EVEN IMMEDIATELY, PROVIDED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RECEIVES, AT THE TIME OF VISA ISSUANCE, INFORMATION AS TO THE TRAVELER'S PLANNED DATE AND PORT OF ARRIVAL IN THE U.S., IDENTIFICATION OF THE MEANS OF TRANSPORT TO BE UTILIZED, INCLUDING AIRLINE NAME AND FLIGHT NUMBER IF APPLICABLE, THE DESTINATION OR PURPOSE OF ENTRY, AND, IN THE CASE OF TRANSIT TRAVELERS, THE ITINERARY THROUGH AND MEANS OF TRANSPORT FROM THE U.S.

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

L-03 CPR-01 SCA-01 /021 W  
----- 073369

R 311011Z DEC 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4948

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUDAPEST 4155

FOR EUR/EE AND VO

(C) THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL LIKEWISE ENDEAVOR TO DECIDE VISA APPLICATIONS OF HOLDERS OF HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PASSPORTS, WHO ARE NOT IN THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, IN SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS PERMITTED BY U.S. VISA REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL SIMILARLY ENDEAVOR TO DECIDE IN SEVEN DAYS OR LESS APPLICATIONS FOR "COURTESY" VISAS FROM HUNGARIANS

DESIRING TO MAKE PERSONAL VISITS TO HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS  
ASSIGNED IN THE UNITED STATES.

6. COMMENT: RE PARA 5A, THE EMBASSY ENVISIONS THAT IT  
WOULD SEND VISA BEARS REQUESTING ISSUANCE AUTHORITY FROM  
THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN SEVEN DAYS, AND STATING IT WILL ISSUE  
AT THE END OF THE TIME LIMIT UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT SPECIFICALLY  
DIRECTS OTHERWISE. ALL SUCH BEAR MESSAGES WOULD CARRY AT LEAST  
PRIORITY PRECEDENCE. RE PARA 5B, EMBASSY REALIZES THAT  
PROPOSED APPROACH INCORPORATES A MEASURE OF "ANNOUNCEMENT-IN,"  
BUT IT WILL ALSO POINT OUT TO FONOFF CONSULAR DIVISION THAT  
ITINERARY NOTIFICATION IS NOT TIED TO ANY TIME LIMIT OR TO  
RESTRICTED POINTS OF ENTRY AS WAS THE OLD, 24-HOUR  
"ANNOUNCEMENT"IN-AND-OUT" PROCEDURE. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO  
SUGGEST THAT PROVISION OF TRAVEL DATA IN URGENT CASES  
WOULD NOT PLACE UNDUE BURDEN ON EITHER HUNGARIAN OR  
AMERICAN OFFICIAL TRAVELERS. FOR EXAMPLE, AMERICAN  
OFFICIALS TRYING TO ARRIVE IN OR TRANSIT BUDAPEST HAVE  
NORMALLY MADE THEIR AIRLINE RESERVATIONS AND ARE ONLY  
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WAITING FOR ISSUANCE OF THEIR VISA. SIMILARLY,  
HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS EN ROUTE TO OR THROUGH THE U.S. ON URGENT  
BUSINESS HAVE NORMALLY COMPLETED THEIR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

7. AGREEMENT ON ABOVE PROPOSAL COULD BE EFFECTED ORALLY, OR  
BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES--IN BUDAPEST OR IN WASHINGTON--AS THE  
DEPARTMENT AND THE GOH DESIRE. EMBASSY HAS NO PREFERENCE  
ON MODE OR VENUE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INSTRUCT.  
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## Message Attributes

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